

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/603,830

Examiner

Linh T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ENDO, SATOSHI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/05/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan R. Bower on December 15, 2006. The amendment was made to clarify the claimed language in order to set the claims for allowability.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 1, lines 28-30 and claim 4, lines 28-30, change: "wherein said first effector driving means is further for activating said analog surround effector to convert the 2-channel surround audio signal converted by said digital surround effector to a 2-channel surround audio signal." to "wherein said first effector driving means is further for activating said analog surround effector to convert the 2-channel **digital** surround audio signal converted by said digital surround effector to a 2-channel surround audio signal."

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to claim 1, none of the references of record alone or combination disclose or suggest a multi-source surround audio apparatus for, in accordance with an

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instruction from a user, performing selective surround sound reproduction of audio signals which are inputted from a plurality of sound sources including a DVD, the apparatus comprising: sound source detection means for detecting a sound source of an inputted audio signal based on the instruction from the user; DVD audio signal reproduction means for, if the detected sound source is a DVD, reproducing the DVD to generate a DVD reproduced audio signal; audio signal reproduction means for, if the detected sound source is not a DVD, extracting an audio signal from the sound source of the inputted audio signal, and generating a reproduced audio signal therefrom; reproduced signal determination means for determining whether the DVD reproduced audio signal is a 5.1-channel digital surround audio signal or a 2-channel digital audio signal and generating a determination signal indicating a result of the determination; and a digital surround effector for, if the determination signal generated by said reproduced signal determination means indicates that the DVD reproduced audio signal is a 5.1-channel digital surround audio signal, converting the DVD reproduced audio signal to a 2-channel digital surround audio signal; an analog surround effector for converting an audio signal to a 2-channel surround audio signal; first effector driving means for, if the determination signal generated by said reproduced signal determination means indicates that the DVD reproduced audio signal is a 2-channel digital audio signal, activating said analog surround effector to convert the DVD reproduced audio signal to a 2-channel surround audio signal, and **sound effector driving means for activating said analog surround effector to convert the reproduced audio signal to a 2-channel surround audio signal, wherein said first**

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effector driving means is further for activating said analog surround effector to convert the 2-channel digital surround audio signal converted by said digital surround effector to a 2-channel surround audio signal. Claim 4 recites the same claimed language as claim 1, therefore is allowable for the same reason.

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

Endoh et al discloses an audio system decoder for converting audio data to analog signals.

Tanaka et al discloses a digital signal-recording disc with areas to store a first and second channel digital audio signal.

Matsushige discloses an auto data communications with multi channel gateways for peripheral devices, which conform to an audio format of 2-channels devices.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-5513. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
December 15, 2006



WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER